

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

Speaking from experience, my local cable company does a horrible job of providing me the services I want. I have no opportunity to pick a different cable provider so I turned to satellite. Both DISH Network and Directv offered me certain benefits I wanted (DISH - PVR functions, Directv - sports coverage, etc.) but neither was able to offer everything I want. A combined company hopefully will be able to do so and will always have competition from cable. Please help make satellite a better competitor to cable, there is no need for satellite providers to fight amongst themselves.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially